

COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

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SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

THE REGENT'S DECLARATION AGAINST CORRUPTION.—There has been, for some days past, a great deal of public attention and interest excited by a declaration, said to have been made by the Prince Regent, relative to the giving of places for the purpose of Parliamentary interest; or, in other words, the giving of the people's money in order to purchase votes of Members of Parliament in support of the ministry. Upon this subject the Prince is said to have expressed his sentiments. It is, therefore, no wonder, that the report has made a great deal of noise, this being, in fact, the ONLY political subject in which those of the people who have any sense, feel an interest; because they are quite convinced, that, if their property and indeed their very lives are to be at the mercy of a set of people, whose voices are thus to be bought by the minister of the day, with the people's own money; they are quite convinced, that, if this is to be the case, it would be worse than beastly stupidity for them to care one straw what may happen as to any thing else of a public nature.—The report, which first appeared in the Morning Chronicle of the 4th instant, is as follows. That, there being a vacancy in the office of Governor of the Military College at Marlow, Mr. PERCEVAL, the Minister, recommended GENERAL CHARLES CRAUFURD for that post, to which recommendation, we are told, the Prince answered in the following manner.—“The Prince also expressed the high respect which he entertained for the talents and services of General Craufurd. He had high claims on the gratitude of his Country; and the country had not been unmindful of his claims. His Royal Highness said, that to the best of his recollection, General Craufurd had a pension of £.1200 a year, on his own life and that of the Duchess his wife. He had a regiment of Dragoon Guards, and he was the Lieutenant-Governor of Tynemouth, bringing him altogether above £.3000 a year; and therefore he must hesitate in adding to these appointments, while so

“many other gallant Officers had not an equal provision.—Mr. Perceval strongly urged the General's high merits, and besides begged leave respectfully to state to his Royal Highness, that his claims were powerfully seconded by his son-in-law, the Duke of Newcastle, whose support in Parliament was most essential to his Majesty's Administration;—perhaps was of more consequence to them than that of any other individual.—The Prince Regent, in answer to this argument, made a declaration to the following purport—“Sir, I did not expect such a reason to be assigned; but I am not sorry that it is so in an instance like the present, when it enables me to make known my resolution without disparagement to the gallant Officer in question. I repeat that I have a high respect for his merits, which have met their reward; but I must tell you, once for all, that I never can nor will consent to bestow any place or appointment meant to be an asylum or reward for the toils and services of our gallant soldiers and seamen, on any person UPON ACCOUNT OF PARLIAMENTARY CONNECTION, OR IN RETURN FOR PARLIAMENTARY VOTES. THIS IS MY FIXED DETERMINATION; and I trust I shall never again be solicited in the same way.”—The Minister bowed and took his leave. It is not true, therefore, that General Craufurd is appointed Governor of the Military College at Marlow; and we congratulate the Country on this truly Constitutional answer of the Prince Regent.”—Now, I beg the reader to observe, that I republish this as I find it already in print, without any pretensions to any knowledge as to its truth or its falsehood. Indeed, I have no such knowledge; and I do not choose to express even any opinion as to its truth or falsehood, though I cannot help having most anxious wishes upon the subject.—My remarks will, of course, be purely hypothetical. But, I must first observe that I never have heard of any thing done by this GENERAL CRAUFURD to en-

title him to a pension of 1,200*l.* a year for his life, and the same to his wife for her life. I have never heard of any very eminent services performed by this man, and I should be glad to know, in what way *his wife* can have merited this annual sum at the peoples' hands; and that, too, at a time, when the ministers object to augment the pay of the officers of the army, because of the pecuniary embarrassments of the country. This lady is a Duchess; but, if the circumstances of the country be such, that a small addition cannot be afforded to the pay of our military officers, surely there ought to be some very good reason for giving this lady 1,200*l.* a year for her life, which is equal to the full pay and allowances of about a dozen Subaltern Officers; and, the distribution of which amongst the officers of the army, would make the proposed addition to the pay of about fifty subaltern officers.

—But, this is what never seems to enter into the heads of those, who oppose the augmenting of the pay of the military and naval officers. Such persons talk of the heavy expences of the country, forgetting, or seeming to forget, that a great part of them might be taken off.—*Why*, I again ask, should this Duchess have so much, or any at all, of our money? This is a question that Mr. PERRY has not thought proper to put; but, a very material question it is; and so, I am satisfied, the reader will think it.—But, besides the pension for life, this gentleman is, it seems, the Colonel of a regiment of Dragoon Guards, and Lieutenant Governor of Tyne-mouth. This was pretty well, one would have thought, without wanting to be a Governor of a Military College. How was he to execute all these offices? It would have been impossible; and, *why*, then, should he have the money for these offices?—If what the Morning Chronicle states be true, this question is answered. The reason for heaping all these places, or rather, all this public money, upon this man, is plain enough; and, if the statement be, therefore, true, no more needs to be said upon that point. It is unnecessary to waste any time or room in characterizing the act, or the man who proposed it.—But, as to the declaration said to have been made by the Prince, that is very important indeed, and calls for the attention of all those, who have a real regard for their country.—It is said, that he declared, that he “never would give his consent to bestow any

“place or appointment, meant to be an
“asylum or reward for the toils and services
“of our gallant soldiers and seamen, on any
“person upon account of Parliamentary
“connection, or in RETURN FOR PAR-
“LIAMENTARY VOTES.”—Now, the thing that excites our attention here, is, not that the Prince should have resolved not to lend his hand to the carrying on of this species of traffic; not that he should have declared his “virtuous abhorrence,” as the Corporation of London anticipated, of so base a truckery; not that he should have seized the first opportunity of protesting against any participation in acts which would richly merit a gibbet: this is not what excites our attention; but, the boldness of the assertion, that so infamous a motive had been stated to him as a ground whereon for him to act; and, really, one can hardly believe it possible, that there is to be found, upon the whole earth, a man to make such a proposition. It is an old saying, that you cannot have blood out of a turnip; but, even a man, with a face made of turnip, could, one would think, never have made such a proposition without blushing.—What, now, does the champion of the other faction say to this? The publication in the Morning Chronicle is, of course, intended as a blow at the minister; and, therefore, we must now hear what the minister's eulogist has to say in answer to it.—It begins by abusing the Prince if he *blabbed*; and evidently aims at making the public believe, that he did *blab*. It thus, conditionally, represents him as *mean and treacherous* for having betrayed a minister, in whom he affected to have confidence. But, observe, it does not *deny the fact*, which was the most material thing of all. It does not *deny the fact*. The article I allude to appeared in the COURIER of the 5th instant, and an article it is worthy of our best attention. It will have to be referred to hereafter, the reader may be well assured.—“The public are indignant at the attack made yesterday upon the character of the Prince Regent, by holding him up to the world as capable of the grossest perfidy. The Party are so enraged at him not having taken them into his confidence; they are so full of rancour against him for not have dismissed his father's Ministers, that there are no reports which they are not prepared to circulate against him. Is there a fouler charge that could be brought against

“any man than the charge of *treachery*: of
 “pretending to place confidence in a man for
 “the purpose of *betraying* it? Yet this
 “is the charge the *Opposition Gazette*
 “brought against the Prince Regent. It
 “stated that the Minister was engaged in
 “a private, confidential conversation with
 “the Regent, of course no one present
 “but the Regent and the Minister, and
 “no one able but themselves to state what
 “passed in that conversation; and yet it
 “affected to give the whole conversation,
 “and to do it in a manner to impress a
 “conviction that it was impossible the
 “conversation could have been disclosed
 “by the Minister, thus attempting to fix
 “the whole shame and *meanness* of the
 “treachery upon the Regent. Such was
 “the conduct of the *Opposition-Gazette*
 “yesterday; but we are happy to see it
 “to-day so far ashamed of its conduct,
 “either in consequence of reproof, or of
 “a consciousness of impropriety, as to
 “apologise for having placed the Regent
 “in an *odious light*, by representing him
 “as betraying the confidential communi-
 “cations of his Ministers, and holding
 “them out to public contempt. The
 “Morning Chronicle denies that the in-
 “formation was communicated to it by
 “any party. This acknowledgment is
 “some concession in favour of honour and
 “decorum. The Party, ashamed of the
 “publication, wish to disown it; no small
 “acknowledgment of its indecency and
 “mischief; for *mischievous it is*, as it will
 “supply the *Weekly Journals with calumny*
 “against the system of Government for months
 “to come; against that system which no
 “men acted upon more offensively than Lords
 “Grenville, Grey, and Moira, in the case of
 “the Hampshire Election, when those Noble-
 “men were in power. The system stands
 “much in need of correction, and we shall
 “be happy to see it amended; but we shall
 “never assist *incendiaries* in attempts to ef-
 “fect its *total overthrow*.—Upon the de-
 “sire of the Prince Regent to preserve
 “military offices for Veterans who have
 “served their Country without receiving
 “a due reward, there can be but one opi-
 “nion; of applause and gratitude. Had
 “the anecdote been confined to this point,
 “there would have been no harm in it.
 “But as far as it represents the Regent
 “blabbing State secrets, it can do his Royal
 “Highness no honour; and the mixture
 “of the story about *Borough patronage*,
 “probably not true, is *positively mischievous*.
 “Such publications it is that give strength

“to the enemies of both the *Ins and the Outs*.
 “For the latter have acted on the system
 “of Parliamentary influence much more
 “rigidly than the former.”—This last
 part of the venal man's remarks is very
 curious. He blames the first publication
 of his adversary; not because it is false
 (for that he does not assert), but because it
 exposes both *INS and OUTS* to the
 assaults of their *common enemy*, the *Refor-*
mers! This is so much like the conduct of
 Lockit, when he cries out, “brother! bro-
 “ther! we are both in the wrong,” that
 comparison forces itself upon us.—The
 COURIER thinks nothing of the publica-
 tion, but as it tends to an *exposure of the sys-*
tem. He does not care about the truth or
 falsehood of the thing itself. That is not
 his concern. The only consideration with
 him, is, whether it touches the *system*; that
 system, to which, for *such solid reasons*, he
 is so firmly attached.—He pretends,
 that he wishes to see the *system corrected*;
 but, then, he will never assist *incendiaries*,
 in attempts to effect its *total overthrow*.

—Now, what does he mean by the
system? Does he mean *corruption*? Is
 that what he means? If it be, what
 does he mean by calling those *incendiaries*,
 who wish to effect its *total overthrow*? He
 would *correct and amend the corruption*;
 but, he would not *wholly overthrow it*.
 Would not wholly overthrow *corruption*?
 And why not? Why, because he would
 lose by it, to be sure. That is his reason.
 —But, he does not mean corruption, he
 will say; he means, the *kingly government*.
 If he does mean that, he is guilty of base
 misrepresentation, in holding us forth as
 attempting to overthrow it. But, he can-
 not mean that; for he says he would
 correct it, he would amend it; so that
 he must mean the *corruption*, and no-
 thing else; and, what we must suppose
 him to mean is, that he would have the
 corruption so altered and new-modelled as
 not to give a handle to us *Jacobins*. This
 is what he means; and it is what is meant
 by all those, who profess a desire to see
 a moderate and temperate reform. They
 would do just enough to deceive the peo-
 ple afresh. We wish to destroy *corruption*
 and all the means of future corruptions.
 This is what we want; and with any thing
 short of this we shall never be satisfied,
 and shall never affect to be satisfied. The
 constitution of England says, that *no man*
shall be taxed without his consent. We have
 this constantly in our eyes; and, 'till we
 give our consent to the taxes by our real

representatives, we shall not be satisfied. —The MORNING CHRONICLE, it should be observed, denies that the declaration of the Prince got abroad through his own means. It, therefore, rebuts the charge of treachery, in the following manner, on the 6th instant.—"The soreness of the whole "tribe of Ministerial Expectants, at the "disclosure of the conditions upon which "they serve the State, hurries them beyond the bounds of decorum. They "fancy that they have discovered the "source of our information, and upon the "supposition that they have hit on the "truth, they assail the quarter from which "they think it comes with every sort of "missile invective, "There were but two "persons present," they say, "at the "conversation, and of these two, who "could disclose the particulars of such "an interview? Not Mr. Perceval it is "obvious—and can it be believed that "the Prince Regent would tell his confidential conversations with his Ministers?" No; it cannot be believed, "nor has it been insinuated, except by "the Partizans of the Minister, that a "syllable of the confidential conversation "came from the Prince Regent.—We "have distinctly said that we received it "from no political quarter whatever, "and that we received it in no secrecy. "The report has been universal for "several days, in all the higher circles; and from whence did it take "wind? From a correspondence which "a Noble Duke of twenty one years of "age, in the indiscretion of his disappointment, has shewn to his friends. "Our heated Adversaries call for proofs. "Here is the proof. We refer them to "the Nobleman in question. They know "him well, and we recommend to them "to demand the justification of their im-maculate Minister at his hands. Let him "say whether he did not write a letter, "complaining of the refusal given to his "application; and let him truly state to "them from whom he received the communication of what passed at the interview. Oh! "Not from Mr. Perceval it is obvious!" Can it be believed that the "Prince Regent would tell the Noble "Duke? We leave this matter to be "settled among them. It is their own "affair. They have provoked the inquiry, and they must not impute to "others what lies at their own door. We "were fully justified in publishing what "they had themselves disclosed; and all

"that we think it incumbent upon us to "do, is explicitly to state, that if this "most important secret (which has filled "the nation with joy,) has come to light, it "is because "an old head is not placed "upon young shoulders."—Here, then, is the history of the disclosure, if the whole history be not a fabrication. The reader has it, however, before him; and I leave him to judge for himself.—As to my wishes, however, they are decidedly for the truth of the story; and, if it were proved to be true, it would, indeed, fill the nation with joy; that is to say, supposing the declaration to extend to an hostility against the giving of places of any sort, and of public money in any shape, for the purpose of securing the votes of members of parliament. It would be good to hear His ROYAL HIGHNESS openly declare, that he would never suffer military posts or employments to be given in exchange for votes in Parliament; but, it would not be enough to see the base and corrupt truckery put a stop to in part; for, though the military department, extensive as it now is, and swallowing, as it does, twenty millions annually, may be made a very fertile source of villainous jobbing; still, there are other departments of equal magnitude; and, I trust, that His Royal Highness will not fail to show his hostility to corruption in every department.—The language of the COURIER is a thing which we ought to bear in mind. We ought to remember, that it does not attempt to deny the facts; that it merely abuses the Prince, if he "blabbed;" and that it expresses its anger at the disclosure, lest it should afford fresh grounds of attack for the Jacobins.—There has been great interest excited by this report; much more than by any thing which has taken place for a long while. The people are disposed to believe it, because they wish it; and, whether it be true or false, it will, in some men's minds, create great expectation, which, let us hope, will not be disappointed.—Let it not be supposed, however, that I look upon the measure of Parliamentary Reform as depending upon any opinions at this time entertained, even by His Royal Highness. The measure will, in my opinion, come as necessarily as Christmas will come. The necessity of it will daily become more apparent, in spite of all the endeavours made to misrepresent the motives of those who now are striving to obtain it. Whether it come this year or next

year or the year after or five or six years hence, is of, comparatively, little moment; and, perhaps, the longer it is delayed the more radical and complete it will be.—For my part, therefore, I am against all compromises, with a view of obtaining what is called strength, but which is, in fact, weakness. I would not give a straw for the co-operation of any body, who is not for a complete reform; a total overthrow of corruption, and a tearing up of the very foundations of it.—Are there, am I told, “very good men, excellently good men,” who are not prepared to go the full length with me. I am sorry for it; but, nothing can be clearer than that they and I are not fit companions in the pursuit; and that we shall annoy one another, give one another a great deal of vexation, without getting on one inch with the cause. But, my opinion of these “very good men,” who are not prepared to go the full length of rooting out corruption, is not, I must confess, favourable. In short, I do not believe them to be sincere. They, and all other men, must see the evil. There is no one who can now plead ignorance of it. Base indeed must be the man, who now affects to have his doubts upon the subject of the evil. Therefore, the man who talks to me of moderation in the removal of it, I suspect of insincerity. I like better far the man who says that nothing at all can be done and that nothing ought to be attempted. By a mixture, a sort of hodge-podge of efforts, nothing ever was done for any cause; and, how is it to be done for a cause, which has so many and such powerful and vigilant enemies?—By joining ourselves to those who would not wholly overthrow corruption, we become feeble; we lose the strength of our principles, which, in the end, would have gained us numbers.

JUBILEE DOLLARS.—Every three days makes a change in the value of this precious commodity. They are now more scarce than ever; and, it seems, that now it is next to impossible to get change of any sort. Even the shillings and sixpences are disappearing, though, in general, not worth half their nominal value.—This is what staggers the *Anti-Jacobins*! They have power to subdue every thing but this.—On the 5th instant, there was a little sparring in the House of Commons about the *Bullion Report*. Mr. HORNER gave notice of his design to bring on the discussion on the 29th instant, hinting at the same time, that the rise in the

price of the dollar, tended to confirm the doctrines of the Report. He was reproached by GEORGE ROSE for not bringing it on sooner; and, in reply, he observed, that he looked with suspicion on GEORGE's impatience; and he let fall, that he suspected, that it was wished to get the discussion over as a prelude to some further measure respecting the price of the Dollar.—Mr. PERCEVAL said something in answer to Mr. HORNER; and as this was the first time, that the *Minister of Finance* opened his lips, in the House, upon the subject of this Report, it is important to retain his words.—“He regretted the delay which had taken place; for he had the best authority for stating, that the protraction of this discussion had a most injurious effect upon the public mind. He was of opinion, that, whatever might be the decision of the House, it was desirable that it should be speedy, because he thought the report itself, and the agitation of this question, had produced a greater degree of public mischief and public calamity than any measure which he ever remembered. The decision of the House, he was of opinion, would be FAVOURABLE; but at all events the question ought to be set at rest. As the Honourable Gentleman disclaimed any intention to go into the discussion, he should avoid following him into those topics which were touched upon by him, and which were obviously a part of the subject. He agreed that there was some advantage in the delay, as it afforded greater time to collect materials for a correct decision: but there was much mischief derived from keeping the public mind in suspense during this interval. He could not, however, concur in the observation, that any thing which had happened tended to confirm the opinions in the report.”—Now, Mr. PERCEVAL, I can take upon myself to assure you, that the putting off of this discussion will have no injurious effect whatever upon the public mind, which is, I believe, as calm upon the subject, and as perfectly resigned to what is coming, as it is possible for mind to be.—“Mischief,” Sir! What mischief has the Bullion Report done? De Yonge was trading in guineas against paper long before the Bullion Committee was formed, and the breakings at Salisbury and elsewhere, began long before the report was published. Besides, these bankruptcies proceed not at all from the paper money. They

proceed chiefly, and indeed, I might say wholly from Buonaparté's decrees.—As to the decision of the House, what may you mean by saying, that you are of opinion "it will be FAVOURABLE?" Do you mean favourable as to the number of votes upon the question; or, that it will produce a favourable effect as to the *public confidence in the paper*? If the former, I dare say you are right in your opinion; but, if the latter, you are positively wrong. The "great statesman now no more," if he was alive, might talk to the end of the year without producing any such effect. Besides, to suppose that the discussion in the House will produce such an effect, is to throw a slight upon the painful labours of those profound gentlemen, SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, MESSRS. BOASE, FONBLANQUE, COUTTS, TROTTER, BOSANQUET, DAVIS GIDDY, CHALMERS and the rest of the tribe of Anti-Jacobin Pamphleteers, who have been so hard at work to make the good-natured people of England (as the Duke of Brunswick called them) believe that paper was equal in value to gold and silver. Why, what is there to say, after what these worthies, and others of less note, have said? What is there to discuss, which they have not discussed, relating to the matter?—It is rather hard, therefore, to say any thing that may damp the ardour of such zealous, and gallant and disinterested youths, who have been vying with each other for the honour of putting down Jacobin Guineas.—Poor Chalmers! I feel most for him. He has been at work any time these last 30 years at keeping up the spirits of the People at *Whitehall* and *St. James's*. He is a sort of government bottle (*dram-bottle*) holder. Whenever the people in office are a little low, out he comes with one of his pamphlets, full of figures about *increasing imports and exports* and the increasing riches and power of Great Britain. He saw them a little depressed about the trade and the bankruptcies and the bullion; and out he came with a pamphlet to their relief; in which, so far from expressing any apprehensions of a depreciation in the Bank Paper, he declares that that Paper has actually *risen* in value rather more than $\frac{1}{4}$ per centum, since the 1st January 1810! Now it is pity to damp the ardour of a zealous and disinterested youth like this, by telling us to wait for the favourable effect of the discussion on the Bullion report.—In the mean while, however, in spite of Mr. DAVIS GIDDY and Mr. BOASE

and the rest of them, the People seem to have taken a wrong turn, and to have grown fonder and fonder of the metallic money. Yesterday there was a *circular paragraph* appeared in all the daily newspapers, in these words:—"By the scarcity of silver great inconvenience was felt at all the public offices as well as in the markets on Saturday last, and which required the receivers and shopkeepers either to take payments short of the silver fractions, or to give written acknowledgments for the excess. It has been a practice for some persons, we hope inconsiderately, to draw on their bankers for such sums as 2l. 19s. 6d. and 3l. 19s. 6d. in order to extract from the till the odd silver. This contributes to the hoarding. We recommend again to all persons to draw only for even sums; and let the balance of shillings run on to the next payment. The public offices ought to set the example, and then a very small quantity of silver would suffice."—The insertion of this paragraph did, I dare say, cost twenty or thirty guineas (I mean pounds) in each news-paper. Who had it put in the reader may easily guess by the recommendation at the close. Oh! what wise men these are! Yes, they think that people are to be persuaded *not to hoard* by being told, that change is scarce! Wise men! Then we are told, in the same papers, that "a very WICKED device is practised by some of the lowest shopkeepers; they put up a bill in their windows announcing, "*Dollars taken at five shillings and nine pence*"—and they sell the articles in which they deal at a shilling above their value."—Oh! wicked rogues! Better set on upon them with an *Information Ex-Officio*. What! take dollars at 5s. 9d. after the Bank Governors and the Privy Councillors determined that they should pass for 5s. 6d. This must be a crime to be sure. There must be some law to reach it.—I think, however, that there must be a mistake as to the assertion about selling the goods above their value; for, you may, I presume, go to such shops and pay any debt you owe there in dollars at 5s. 9d. though the debt may have been contracted a year ago. This brings the matter to issue at once.—But, the truth is, I believe, that there is no tradesman, who would not willingly take payment in dollars at 5s. 9d. The scarcity of change in the country was mentioned in the House of Commons, on Monday, by Lord FOLKESTONE, and also

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by Mr. G. VANSITTART; and, indeed, nothing can be more obvious, that such scarcity *must* exist and must *increase* till there is no gold and silver left in circulation, unless a *remedy* be speedily adopted, and of which remedy *I am in possession*, and, I had almost said, *exclusive possession*; but, I do not choose to communicate it to the world.—Aye! I am aware, that there are people to laugh at me for saying this; and, I have only to laugh at them in return. We shall see whose side the laughers will be of at *last*. It is the *end* that settles questions of wisdom as well as questions of war.—All seems to be going on so prosperously; every thing thrives with us so; “the king is going on well;” the armies are going on well; the consolidated fund is going on well; every thing is going on well but this *little thing* about the paper-money. It is so vexatious that this should be so perverse, and thus dash the cup of our happiness. So happy a people as we are in every other respect, too! Really, this thing should be tackled some how or other.—But, at any rate, the Jacobins and Levellers (that is to say, the Parliamentary Reformers) have had nothing at all to do with the matter. The rival parties have had the thing in their own hands; and, be it remembered, *both parties* have praised PITT and his SYSTEM. Both parties have made that system *their own*; and, for my part, I shall always think it unfair to impute any share of the evil, to Mr. Perceval and his people exclusively.—The old full-blooded Anti-Jacobins were, at first, a little struck at the 6d. being clapped on upon the dollar; but, thinking, I suppose, that they would only get laughed at for their long faces, they have put on an incessant grin, like that of their great leader PITT, and tell you, that it is “*very proper* indeed;” a very proper step on the part of “*His Majesty’s Government*.” How they will look, and what they will say, when the *small notes* come out, I know not; but, that 5s. and 10s. notes must be made, I think, is evident. For, as to raising the nominal value of the dollar, it is of no use. There are some shops, I am told, taking the dollar, in payments of goods or of debts, at 6s. And, who can suppose, that the value will not rise? Let the Bank make the nominal price 10s. and people will take the dollar next day at 12s. and very soon at 20s.—This is all very natural. It is according to a law of nature almost. Instinct is nearly suf-

ficient to direct men in these matters. —A correspondent expresses his doubts as to my information, published on the 27th March (page 747), respecting the coins in France. He need have none. I had that information from a gentleman, who had the *best possible means of ascertaining the fact*. Indeed, I believe, he took it down from the mouths of witnesses examined upon oath. In short, I pledge myself for the truth of every part of the statement. And, that statement being true, the fact is certain, that there is *no rise* at all of gold and silver upon the continent; because, if there were such rise, it is manifest, that the old French coins would not pass current at *LESS* than their former nominal value. This is a proof indubitable. There is no gainsaying it. If an old French crown passes current at Dunkirk and Calais for *LESS* than its former nominal value, it is *impossible* that silver can have *risen* in price at Dunkirk and Calais. Here the dollar *keeps rising*. Its real former value was 4s. 6d. It then became 4s. 9d. next 5s. now 5s. 6d. Here, then, it may be said, that silver has *RISEN* in price, or, which is more correct, that paper has fallen in price, but, upon the continent the *reverse* is manifestly the case, and well it may, seeing that the far greater part of our gold and silver is *gone to the continent*; and *this* is the real cause of the old French crown now passing for *less* than its former nominal value.

PORTUGAL. THE WAR.—The reader will find the English account of what is going on in Portugal, and also the French account, if I can find room for it.—The reader will see, that the commanders are as well matched upon paper as they are upon land.—I shall offer some remarks upon their dispatches in my next.

W^M. COBBETT.

State Prison, Newgate, Tuesday,
April 9, 1811.

OFFICIAL PAPER.

PORTUGAL. THE WAR.—Dispatches from Lord Talavera to the War Secretary, dated at Villa Seca, 14 March, and at Louzao, 16 March, 1811.—Published in London, 7 April, 1811.

Villa Seca, 14 March, 1811.

The enemy retired from their position which they had occupied at Santarem and the neighbourhood in the night of the 5th

inst. I put the British army in motion to follow them on the morning of the 6th. Their first movements indicated an intention to collect a force at Thomar, and I therefore marched upon that town, on the 8th, a considerable body of troops, formed of a part of Marshal Sir William Beresford's corps, under Major-General the Hon. William Stewart, which had crossed the Tagus at Abrantes, and afterwards the Zezere, and of the 4th and 6th, and part of the 1st divisions of infantry, and two brigades of British cavalry. The enemy, however, continued his march towards the Mondego, having one corps, the 2d, on the road of Espinhel; General Loison's division on the road of Anciao, and the remainder of the army towards Pombal. These last were followed, and never lost sight of, by the light division and the royal dragoons, and the 1st hussars, who took from them about 200 prisoners.—On the 9th the enemy collected in front of Pombal the 6th corps, with the exception of General Loison's division, the 8th corps, and the ninth corps, and General Montbrun's division of cavalry. The hussars, which, with the royal dragoons and light division, were immediately in front of the enemy's army, distinguished themselves in a charge which they made on this occasion, under the command of Colonel Arenschidlt. A detachment of the 16th light dragoons, under Lieut. Weyland, which had been in observation of the enemy near Lyria, made prisoners a detachment, consisting of 30 dragoons, on that morning; and had followed the enemy from Lyria, and arrived on the ground just in time to assist their friends the hussars in this charge. I could not collect a sufficient body of troops to commence an operation upon the enemy till the 11th. On that day, the 1st, 3d, 4th, 5th, and 6th, and the light divisions of infantry, and General Pack's brigade, and all the British cavalry, joined upon the ground immediately in front of the enemy, who had commenced their retreat from their position during the night. They were followed by the light division, the hussars and royals, and Brigadier-General Pack's brigade under the command of Major-General Sir William Erskine and Major-General Slade, and made an attempt to hold the ancient castle of Pombal, from which they were driven; but the 6th corps and General Montbrun's cavalry, which formed the rear-guard, supported by the 8th corps, held the grounds on the

other side of the town, the troops not having arrived in time to complete dispositions to attack them before it was dark. Upon this occasion Lieutenant-Colonel Elder's battalion of Portuguese caçadores distinguished themselves. The enemy retired in the night; and on the 12th, the 6th corps, with General Montbrun's cavalry, took up a strong position at the end of a defile between Redinha and Pombal, with their right in a wood upon the Soure river, and their left extending towards the high ground above the river of Redinha. This town was in the rear. I attacked them in this position on the 12th, with the 3d and 4th light divisions of infantry, and Brigadier-General Pack's brigade, and the cavalry, the other troops being in reserve. The post in the wood upon their right was first forced by Sir William Erskine with the light division. We were then able to form the troops in the plain beyond the defile; and the 3d division under Major General Picton were formed in two lines in the centre, having General Pack's brigade supporting their right, and communicating with the 3d division; and the light division in two lines on the left. These troops were supported in the rear by the British cavalry; and the 1st, 5th, and 6th divisions were in reserve. The troops were formed with great accuracy and celerity, and Lieutenant-General Sir B. Spencer led the line against the enemy's position on the heights, from which they were immediately driven, with the loss of many men killed and wounded, and some prisoners. Major General Sir William Erskine particularly mentioned the conduct of the 52d regiment, and Colonel Elder's caçadores, in the attack of the wood, and I must add, that I have never seen the French infantry driven from a wood in a more gallant style. There was but one narrow bridge, and a ford close to it, over the Redinha river, over which our light troops passed with the enemy; but as the enemy commanded these passages with cannon, some time elapsed before we could pass over a sufficient body of troops to make a fresh disposition to attack the heights on which they had again taken post. The 3d division crossed, however, and manœuvred again upon the enemy's left flank, while the light infantry and cavalry, supported by the light division, drove them upon their main body at Condeixa. The light infantry of Major-General Picton's division, under Lieut. Col. Williams, and the

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4th caçadores, under Colonel de Regoa, were principally concerned in this operation. We found the whole army yesterday, with the exception of the second corps, which was still at Espinhal, in a very strong position at Condeixa; and I observed, that they were sending off their baggage by the road of Ponte de Murcella. From this circumstance I concluded that Colonel Trant had not given up Coimbra; and that they had not been able to detach troops to force him from the place. I therefore marched the 3d division, under Major-General Picton, through the mountains upon the enemy's left, towards the only road open for their retreat; which had the immediate effect of dislodging them from the strong position of Condeixa; and the enemy encamped last night at Casal Nova in the mountains, about a league from Condeixa. —We immediately communicated with Coimbra, and made prisoners a detachment of the enemy's cavalry which were upon the road. —We found the 6th and 8th corps formed in a very strong position near Casal Nova this morning, and the light division attacked and drove in their out-posts: but we could dislodge them from their positions only by movements on their flanks. Accordingly I moved the 4th division under Major-General Cole upon Panella, in order to secure the passage of the river Esa, and the communication with Espinhal, near which place Major-General Nightingall had been in observation of the movements of the 2d corps since the 10th; and the 3d division, under Major-General Picton, more immediately round the enemy's left, while the light division and Brigadier-General Pack's brigade, under Major-General Sir W. Erskine, turned their right; and Major-General Alexander Campbell, with the 6th division, supported the light troops by which they were attacked in front. These troops were supported by the cavalry, and by the 1st and 5th divisions, and Colonel Ashworth's brigade in reserve. —These movements obliged the enemy to abandon all the positions which they successively took in the mountains; and the two corps d'armée, composing the rear-guard, were flung back upon the main body at Miranda de Corvo, upon the river Esa, with considerable loss of killed, wounded, and prisoners. In the operations of this day, the 43d, 52d, and 95th regiments, and 3d caçadores, under the command of Colonels Drummond and

Beckwith, and Major Patrickson, Lieut. Colonel Ross, and Majors Gilmour and Stewart, particularly distinguished themselves; as also the light infantry battalions of General Picton's division under Lieutenant Colonel Williams, and the 4th caçadores under Colonel de Regoa, and the troops of horse-artillery under the command of Captains Ross and Bull. The result of these operations has been that we have saved Coimbra and Upper Beira from the enemy's ravages, and we have opened the communications with the northern provinces, and we have obliged the enemy to take for their retreat the road by Ponte de Murcella, in which they may be annoyed by the militia acting in security upon their flank, while the Allied Army will press upon their rear. The whole country, however, affords many advantageous positions to a retreating army, of which the enemy have shewn that they know how to avail themselves. —They are retreating from the country as they entered it, in one solid mass; covering their rear on every march by the operations of either one or two corps d'armée, in the strong positions which the country affords; which corps d'armée are closely supported by the main body. Before they quitted their position they destroyed a part of their cannon and ammunition; and they have since blown up whatever the horses were unable to draw away. They have no provisions excepting what they plunder on the spot; or, having plundered, what the soldiers carry on their backs; and live cattle. I am concerned to be obliged to add to this account, that their conduct throughout this retreat has been marked by a barbarity seldom equalled, and never surpassed. Even in the towns of Torres Novas, Thomar, and Pernes, in which the head-quarters of some of the corps had been for four months, and in which the inhabitants had been induced by promises of good treatment to remain, they were plundered, and many of their houses destroyed on the night the enemy withdrew from their position; and they have since burnt every town and village through which they have passed. The convent of Alcobaça was burnt by order from the French head-quarters. The Bishop's Palace, and the whole town of Leyria, in which General Drouet had had his head quarters, shared the same fate; and there is not an inhabitant of the country of any class or description, who has had any dealing or communication with the French

army, who has not had reason to repent of it, and to complain of them.—This is the mode in which the promises have been performed, and the assurances have been fulfilled, which were held out in the Proclamation of the French Commander in Chief: in which he told the inhabitants of Portugal, that he was not come to make war upon them, but with a powerful army of one hundred and ten thousand men, to drive the English into the sea. It is to be hoped that the example of what has occurred in this country will teach the people of this and of other nations what value they ought to place on such promises and assurances, and that there is no security for life, or for any thing which renders life valuable, excepting in decided resistance to the enemy. I have the honour to enclose returns of killed and wounded in the several affairs with the enemy since they commenced their retreat. I have received the most able and cordial assistance throughout these operations from Lieutenant General Sir Brent Spencer and Marshal Sir W. Beresford, whom I had requested to cross the Tagus, and who has been with me since the 11th instant; from Major Generals Sir W. Erskine, Picton, Cole, and Campbell, Major General Slade and Major General the Honourable C. Colville, and the General and other officers commanding brigades under their orders respectively. I am particularly indebted to the Quarter-Master-General Colonel Murray for the assistance I have received from him, and the Deputy Adjutant-General the hon. Colonel Pakenham, and the Officers of the Adjutant and Quarter-Master General's departments, as also to those of my personal Staff, who have given me every assistance in their power.—I am sorry to inform your Lordship that Badajos surrendered on the 11th inst.

Louxao, March 16.

Major-General Cole joined Major-General Nightingall at Espinhel on the afternoon of the 14th, and this movement, by which the Esa was passed, and which gave us the power of turning the strong position of Miranda de Corvo, induced the enemy to abandon it on that night. They destroyed at this place a great number of carriages, and buried and otherwise destroyed or concealed the ammunition which they had carried; and they likewise burnt much of their baggage: and the road throughout the march from Miranda is strewn with the car-

cases of men and animals, and destroyed carriages and baggage. We found the enemy's whole army yesterday in a very strong position on the Ceira, having one corps as an advanced guard in front of Foy d'Aronce on this side of the river. I immediately made arrangements to drive in the advanced guard, preparatory to the movements which it might be expedient to make to cross the Ceira this morning. Brigadier-General Pack's brigade had been detached in the morning through the mountains to the left as well to turn the enemy in his position at Miranda de Corvo as in view to any others they might take up on this side of the Ceira. The light division, under Major General Sir W. Erskine, was ordered to possess some heights immediately above Foy d'Aronce, while Major-General Picton's division was moved along the great road to attack the left of the enemy's position and of the village.—The 6th division, under Major-General Campbell, and the hussars and 16th light dragoons, supported the light division, and the 1st division and the 14th and royal dragoons, the third. These movements succeeded in forcing the enemy to abandon his strong positions on this side of the Ceira, with considerable loss. The Colonel of the 39th regiment was made prisoner. The light troops of General Picton's division under Lieut.-Col. Williams, and those of Major-General Nightingall's brigade, were principally engaged on the right, and the 95th regiment in front of the light division; and these troops behaved in the most gallant manner. The horse artillery, likewise, under Captains Ross and Bull, distinguished themselves upon this occasion. The troops took much baggage and some ammunition-carriages in Foy d'Aronce. I had been prevented from moving till a late hour in the morning by the fog; and it was dark by the time we gained possession of the last position of the enemy's advanced guard. In the night the enemy destroyed the bridge on the Ceira, and retreated, leaving a small rear-guard on the river.

Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the British and Portuguese Forces in the several affairs with the French Army, from the 6th to the 15th of March, 1811.

8th and 9th March.—1 horse killed, 2 rank and file, 2 horses, wounded; 7 rank and file, 8 horses, missing.

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11th March.—11 rank and file killed ; 2 Ensigns, 2 serjeants, 16 rank and file, wounded.

12th March.—17 rank and file, 3 horses, killed ; 3 Captains, 5 Lieutenants, 3 Ensigns, 1 Staff, 7 serjeants, 153 rank and file, 4 horses, wounded : 1 serjeant, 14 rank and file, missing.

14th March.—1 Lieutenant, 14 rank and file, killed ; 1 Major, 5 Captains, 4 Lieutenants, 1 Ensign, 12 serjeants, 112 rank and file, wounded ; 4 rank and file missing.

15th March.—2 Lieutenants, 1 serjeant, 6 rank and file, killed ; 1 Lieutenant, 1 Ensign, 1 serjeant, 59 rank and file, wounded.

Names of Officers killed, wounded, and missing of the Army under the Command of Lieut.-Gen. Lord Viscount Wellington, K. B. in the several affairs with the French Army, from the 6th to the 14th of March, 1811, inclusive.

11TH MARCH.

1st Bat. 95th Foot.—Second Lieut. Hopwood, wounded.

3d Caçadores—Ensign Joze Joaquim Figeo, severely wounded.

12TH MARCH.

2d Bat. 5th Foot—Lieut. Clerke, severely wounded.

1st Bat. 45th Foot—Lieut. March, slightly wounded.

1st Bat. 52d Foot—Lieut. Cross, Ensign Lifford, Adjutant Winterbottom, wounded.

1st Bat. 88th Foot—Lieut. Heppenstal, slightly wounded.

94th Foot—Captain Bogue, severely wounded.

1st Bat. 95th Foot—Lieut. Beckwith, wounded.

1st Caçadores—Captain Chapman, 95th Foot, ditto.

11th Portuguese Regiment—Capt. Waldron, 27th Foot, ditto.

4th Caçadores—Ensign Joze Filicissimo, ditto.

6th Ditto—Ensign Joze P. de Carto, ditto.

14TH MARCH.

1st Bat. 52d Foot—Lieut. Thomas Gifford, killed.

1st Bat. 43d Foot—Capt. Napier, severely wounded, Captain Dalzell, slightly wounded ; Ensign Carroll, severely wounded.

1st Bat. 52d Foot—Captain George Napier, severely wounded : Capt. William Mein, slightly wounded ; Capt. William Jones, severely wounded.

5th Bat. 60th Foot—Lieut. Wynne, slightly wounded.

74th Foot—Lieut. Crabb, ditto.

1st Bat. 95th Foot—Major Stewart, severely wounded, (since dead) : Lieut. Strode wounded.

1st Caçadores—Lieut. Joaquim Manuel, wounded.

15TH MARCH.

5th Bat. 60th Foot.—Lieut. Sawatzky, killed.

1st Bat. 88th Foot.—Lieut. Heppenstal, ditto.

1st Bat. 95th Foot.—First Lieut. M'Culloch, severely wounded ; Second Lieut. Kincaird, slightly wounded.

Foreign-Office, April 6.—A dispatch was received this morning by the Marquis Wellesley from Charles Stuart, Esq. his Majesty's Minister at Lisbon, of which the following is an extract :

Lisbon, March 23, 1811.

The army of General Massena continues to retreat towards the frontier, and every march is facilitated by the abandonment of wounded, the destruction of baggage, and whatever can encumber their movement. They attempted during the 18th and 19th to make a stand in the Sierra de Moita, but they were driven from that position with the loss of 600 prisoners on the 19th. On the 21st they reached Galiza. The British head-quarters were at Pombeiro on the 11th, and at Algazil on the 20th. The cavalry and light troops continued in sight of the French rear-guard, and the movement of the allied army along the skirts of the Estrella, which flank the positions in the valley of the Mondego, promises new impediments to their retreat. The accounts from the frontier of Spanish Estremadura state that the greater part of the French force which came from Andalusia have returned to that province. Marshal Soult moved in the middle of the month towards Seville at the head of 4000 infantry and 1500 cavalry. No considerable force has been left in the town of Badajoz. The siege of Campo Major continued during the 19th, 20th and 21st. A breach having been effected, the place capitulated on the morning of the latter day. The garrison, in number about 250 militia, have remained prisoners of war. The French force before the place consisted of 4000 infantry and 500 cavalry. The advanced guard of Marshal Beresford reached Portalegre on the 20th, where that officer was expected on the following day.

PORTUGAL. THE WAR.—*The Portuguese Papers contain a dispatch from Lord Wellington, to Señor M. P. Forjas, dated the 14th of March, containing precisely the same details as those in our Gazette Extraordinary, to which, however, are added, the following particulars respecting Badajos, and his own intentions, had his reinforcements from England arrived at the time he expected them.*

I am much concerned, however, to have to inform your Excellency that the town of Badajos surrendered on the 11th inst. to the enemy. Though I have not yet learned all the circumstances of this event, I can have no doubt with respect to the fact. From the moment when the enemy entered Estremadura, and employed his forces against that place, my attention was called and directed to the means of saving it.—Antecedent to the unfortunate battle of the 19th of February, I determined to reinforce the Spanish army, in order to oblige the enemy to raise the siege of that place, and I should have carried into effect this my determination, had I been joined by the reinforcements which I expected to arrive in the Tagus about the end of the month of January.—The battle of the 19th of February destroyed the Spanish troops on whose aid and co-operation I had depended. It was, in consequence, impossible to detach a sufficient number of troops to effect the object I had in view. I determined, however, after the arrival of the reinforcements, though the enemy should not have retired from his position on the Tagus, to attack him, should the state of the roads permit.—The reinforcements arrived in the beginning of March, but had not then joined the army, and in the night of the 5th the enemy retired from the position he occupied. On the 6th inst. I desired General Leite, the Governor of Elvas, to communicate to the Governor of Badajos, by means of signals, or in any other manner which might best suit, that Massena had begun to retreat, and that he might be assured that I would succour him as soon as possible; in the mean time I trusted that he would defend the place to the last extremity.—I had in consequence made every arrangement to detach a body of troops when the enemy should leave the Tagus and the Zezere, and, accordingly, with this view, troops marched from Thomar on the 9th, as they did also from other points; that part of the corps

of Marshal Beresford which had taken post on the other side of the Tagus, and the vanguard of which had advanced to within three marches of the fortress of Elvas.—On the morning of the 9th I received at Thomar intelligence of the most favourable kind from Badajos, by which I was induced to believe not only that the place was not in any actual danger, but that the fire made on the enemy was much superior and effectual to that received from him; and that, with the exception of the loss sustained in the death of General Menacho, it had suffered very little; that there was no want of provisions or ammunition, and that it was, in fact, in so good a condition, that it was probable it might hold out a month.—General Imaz, a person of equal reputation with the late Governor, succeeded to the command, and the greatest confidence was reposed in him; but he surrendered to the enemy on the day following that on which he received my assurances of succour; at the same time that I urged him to defend it to the last extremity.—It is useless to make any reflection on the facts here stated. The Spanish nation has lost in the course of two months the fortresses of Tortosa, Olivenza, and Badajos, without any sufficient cause—and at the same time Marshal Soult, with a corps of troops which never was supposed to exceed 20,000 men, besides the capture of the two last places, has made prisoners and destroyed above 22,000 Spanish troops. I have the honour to remain, with sentiments of esteem and consideration, your Excellency's most faithful servant,

WELLINGTON.

Head-quarters, Villa Seca, March 14, 1811.

In a second dispatch to M. de Forjas, dated March 16, Lord Wellington writes as follows:

After I had sent off to your Excellency my former dispatch of the date of the 14th, I learned some further particulars relative to the surrender of Badajos. It appears that the enemy had on the 9th made a breach nearly 18 feet in breadth, but which was not practicable.—On the same day the Governor of the place acknowledged the signal and the receipt of the message I had sent to him; on the 10th he discontinued hostilities, and on the 11th surrendered the place, delivering up the garrison prisoners of war.—The number of the garrison at the time of the surrender was 9,000, while that of the ene-

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my was only 9,600 infantry and 2,000 cavalry. The garrison wanted neither provisions nor ammunition.—In my letter of the 6th instant, I requested the Governor of Elvas to desire the Governor of Badajos to observe secrecy with respect to the retreat of Massena, to prevent its reaching the knowledge of the enemy by means of deserters, as I thought to meet with him again at Badajos, but he published the intelligence as soon as he received it, asserting, at the same time, that he did not believe it. He, in like manner, communicated it to the French General.—When Badajos had surrendered, the enemy directed his operations against Campo Major, in which direction he has moved.—I have the honour to be, with consideration and particular esteem, your Excellency's attentive and faithful servant,

WELLINGTON.

Head-quarters, Lousa, March 16, 1811.

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.—*French Official Intelligence from the Armies, published at Paris, 31st March, 1811.*

General Foy arrived at Paris the day before yesterday, with letters from the Prince of Essling. He left the head quarters in Portugal on the 15th instant.—The army was in the best condition. There were hardly any sick. The soldiers were full of ardour.—Marshal the Prince of Essling deemed it expedient to make a movement. He had pushed his right to the Zezere, and established his headquarters at Pombal.—Several corps of troops in the pay of England had been defeated. Columns had penetrated Portugal in every direction, disarming the inhabitants, and reducing them to submission.—Adjutant-Commandant Avy has also arrived from Badajos, which he left on the 14th of March, dispatched by the Duke of Dalmatia, with the colours taken by the Marshal during the six weeks that he has been in Estremadura. He is also the bearer of the capitulation of Badajos.—The capture of Badajos and Olivenza, the action at Castillegos, and the battle of Gebora, are important military events which have turned to the confusion of our enemies. Twenty thousand prisoners, colours, and several hundred pieces of cannon, are in our power.—On the 5th of March, some important events took place before Cadiz. A division of 6,000 English, and from 7 to 8,000 Spaniards, landed about the end of February, at Algeiras.

This column, consisting of 14,000 men, intended to attack the Duke of Belluno in the rear, and to raise the siege of Cadiz. The plan was completely frustrated. The Duke of Belluno defeated the enemy, and drove them into the Isle of Leon, taking three stands of colours, four pieces of cannon, and 760 men. He killed and wounded more than one-third of the English.—General Sebastiani, who commands the 4th corps, consisting of 20,000 men, supposed that the enemy, who landed at Algeiras, was intended to attack his right, while a division from Murcia should march on his left. He detached a part of his army against this division. He did not learn what passed until the 7th. The division of Murcia fled at the sight of his sharpshooters. In the mean time, Ballasteros advanced upon Seville, with the remains of his corps which escaped from the battle of Castillegos, amounting to about 3,000 men. He was met by General Darrican, who put him completely to the rout, and pursued him to a considerable distance.—On the 10th of March the siege of Cadiz was resumed with fresh ardour. All these events have filled our friends in Andalusia with admiration, and the enemy with dismay.

SIEGE OF BADAJOS.

[Extracts from the General Orders, published on the 20th of February, by Marshal the Duke of Dalmatia, General-in-Chief of the army of the south, and of a dispatch transmitted on the 22d, by his Excellency to his Serene Highness Major-General the Prince of Neufchatel and Wagram.]

The General-in-Chief announces to the army, the brilliant advantages that the 5th corps of the army, commanded by Marshal the Duke of Treviso, and the cavalry of reserve under the orders of General Latour Maubourg, have successively obtained over the enemy, under the walls of Badajos.—Since the commencement of the siege of this fortress the enemy made two sorties, for the purpose of retarding the approaches and destroying our works. They were vigorously repulsed, and lost a great number of men. The infantry in the trenches, and the companies of sappers under the orders of Captain Costé, as well as the 4th dragoons, commanded by Colonel Farine, distinguished themselves by their bravery. The General of Division Girard ably directed the movements of the troops, under

the orders of Marshal the Duke of Treviso. The Chief of battalion, Cazin, commanding the engineers, was killed in one of these sorties. He was an officer of great merit, and is much regretted. The battery of the first parallel, which was opened on the height of Viento, is called after him. Captain Vainsot of the engineers, a distinguished officer, as well as Captains Lapoterié and Prestat of the staff, were also wounded.—In the mean time the cavalry of reserve under the orders of General Latour Maubourg made an incursion into Portugal, and alternately appeared before the fortresses of Elvas and Campo Mayor. In the various skirmishes he had with the enemy, he killed several and took some prisoners. The Spaniards notwithstanding, who from the tardiness of their succours were not able to prevent the capture of Olivenza, dispatched by forced marches the two divisions that had joined the English army at Lisbon. On the night of the 5th they appeared on the heights of St. Christoval, and established a communication with the troops in Badajos. The cavalry which had completed the investment of the garrison on the bank of the Guadiana, was obliged to retire, and pass the Gebora. The two divisions of relief entered Badajos.—On the 6th General Latour Maubourg was ordered to advance, and endeavour to re-establish the blockade upon the right bank. The brave cavalry under his command presented themselves at three in the afternoon before the Spanish and Portuguese cavalry, part of which was drawn up on the left bank of the Gebora, charged and overthrew them, with the loss at least of three hundred men and as many horses, of which several were drowned. The 14th regiment of dragoons acquired great honors in forcing, under the fire of the enemy's grape, the passage of the bridge of Gebora.—On the 7th at noon, the enemy made a general sortie on the left bank, upon the right of our attack, and manœuvred, in a manner, for the purpose of forcing us to quit that position, with the view of afterwards attacking the rear of the continuation of the parallel. They had already reached the redoubts Bruchon and Cazaux, which crowned the heights of St. Michael, and took possession of them; but the dispositions were so well made, and the reinforcements sent by Marshal the Duke of Treviso arrived so opportunely, that the enemy were only masters of these redoubts some seconds,

and notwithstanding their force, which amounted to 10,000 infantry, and 600 cavalry, besides some field pieces, they were completely routed and driven to the glacis of Fort Picurina and the garrison. The enemy left 150 killed behind them; and, according to the accounts of deserters, they had upwards of 1,000 wounded; they also lost several officers of rank. We had to lament the loss of some brave men. Captain Cazaux, of the light artillery, Lieutenant Bruchon, of the sappers, were killed: Captain Mutta, of the 40th regiment, and Colonel Vigent, of the 64th, were wounded. The Commander-in-Chief had ordered the General of Division Gazan, Head of the Staff, to direct for that day the attack on the right: his dispositions were excellent, and he was ably supported by the General of Division Gerard. The Chief of Battalion Arnaud, Aide-de-Camp to General Gazan, and Sub-Lieutenant Ingaldo, in the service of his Catholic Majesty, were wounded.—The enemy remained quiet on the 8th. He appeared astonished at his loss on the preceding evening, and the resistance he met.—On the 9th, he made a sortie on the right bank with his cavalry and the two divisions of infantry which came from Lisbon. They took a position on the heights of St. Christoval, for the purpose of re-establishing the communication with Elvas and Campo Mayor, and facilitating the introduction of supplies into Badajos; thereby appearing to renounce any intention of a new sortie against the front of attack.

STORMING OF FORT PARDALERAS.

The enemy would have been instantly attacked in his position on the right bank, if the passage of the Guadiana, having been impeded by various circumstances, had not retarded this operation; and if the works executed by the Imperial corps of engineers, under the orders of General Lery, and those of the artillery commanded by General Bourgeat, had been sufficiently advanced to favour this other enterprise.—The parallel of the attack in the centre had already reached to within 160 yards of the salient angle of Fort Pardaleras: two batteries were established, and hopes were entertained that after silencing the fire of the Fort, it would be possible, by one of those bold strokes which commonly succeed in war, to carry it by assault. It was resolved to attack it. On the 11th, in the afternoon, the hom-

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bardment, which was begun six days before, was resumed with fresh vigour; and at the same time the two batteries, which were erected against the face of the middle bastion of Fort Pardaleras, opened their fire. By night-fall, that of the enemy was silenced, but the fire from the garrison increased. Notwithstanding this circumstance, 400 brave fellows, under the orders of Captain Coste, who had been placed in the trenches by the Duke of Treviso, were commanded to advance, to rush to the entrance of the fort, to break the palissades and to enter the works. It was executed with all possible bravery, with shouts of *Long live the Emperor!*—In less than a quarter of an hour, they were masters of the fort, and the garrison were taken prisoners. They also took six pieces of cannon. We had only seven or eight men wounded.—From the beginning of the siege to the taking of Pardaleras, the enemy did not relax their fire. They increased it after this event. But the direction given by General Lery to the parallels was so scientific, and the batteries of General Bourgeat so well adapted to localities and the objects at which they were aimed, that this prodigious fire was not as destructive as it might have been. The third parallel was pushed on with all possible vigour, and batteries, *a ricochets*, were already established against the extent of the faces of several bastions of the fortress.

BATTLE OF THE GEBORA.

The enemy had established his camp upon the heights of St. Christoval, on the right bank of the Guadiana: and while he was occupied in completing it, and rendering the passage of the Gebora impracticable, the fort of Pardaleras was taken. He conceived himself in perfect security in this position, having easy communications, with Elvas and Campo Mayor.

(To be continued.)

HAMBURGH DEPUTATION TO NAPOLEON.

(Concluded from page 863.)

—If your Majesty, from that devoted point whence you take a view of human affairs, permit our feebleness to indulge in any degree of pride, we still venture to think that we enter not as a vulgar territory, as an obscure acquisition, into that immense circle of provinces, struck with

admiration, and happy in obeying a single master."

Reply of his Majesty.

"Gentlemen, Deputies of the Hanse Towns of Hamburg, Bremen, and Lubeck—You formed part of the Germanic Empire; your Constitution terminated with its existence. Since that time your situation was uncertain. I intended to reconstitute your cities under an independent administration, when the changes produced in the world by the new laws of the British Council rendered the project impracticable. It was impossible for me to give you an independent administration, since you could no longer have an independent flag.—The Decrees of Berlin and Milan are the fundamental laws of my empire. They cease only to have effect as to those nations which defend their sovereignty, and maintain the religion of their flag. England is in a state of blockade as to those nations which submit to the Orders of 1806, because the flags thus submitting to the English laws are denationalized; they are English. Those nations, on the contrary, which feel their own dignity, and find in their courage and power sufficient resources to disregard the blockade by notification, commonly called a paper blockade, and to approach all the ports of my empire, except those under real blockade, according to the known usage and the stipulations of the treaty of Utrecht, may hold communication with England. As to them, England is not blockaded. The decrees of Berlin and Milan, flowing from the nature of things, shall continue to form the public code of my empire as long as England maintains her Orders in Council of 1806 and 1807, and violates the stipulations of the treaty of Utrecht upon this subject.—England acts upon the principle of seizing the enemy's merchandize, under whatever flag it might be. The empire has been compelled to admit the principle of seizing English merchandize, or proceeding from the commerce of England, in whatever territory it may be. England seizes in every sea the passengers, merchants, and carriers belonging to the nation she is at war with. France is compelled to seize the English travellers, merchants, and carriers, in whatever part of the Continent they may be, and wherever she can reach them; and if in this system there be any thing little consonant to the spirit of the age, it is the injustice of the new English laws that must be charged with it.—I have been

pleased to enter into these explanations with you, to convince you that your union with the empire is the necessary result of the British laws of 1806 and 1807, and not the effect of any ambitious calculation. In my civil laws you will find a protection, which in your maritime position, you can no longer find in the political code. That maritime commerce, which constituted your prosperity, cannot henceforth be revived, but in conjunction with the restoration of my maritime power. The rights of nations, the liberty of the seas, and a general peace, must be re-conquered at one and the same time. When I shall have upward of 100 sail of the line, I shall subjugate England in a few campaigns. The seamen of your coasts, and the materials conveyed to the mouths of your rivers, are necessary to my purpose. France, within her old limits, could not construct a marine in time of war. When her coasts were blockaded, she was compelled to receive the law. Now from the increase my empire has received within the last six years, I can build, equip, and arm 25 sail of the line yearly, without the slightest delay or obstructions from the existence of a maritime war.—The accounts that have been given me of the good disposition which animates your fellow-citizens have afforded me pleasure; and I hope, in a short time, to have to praise the zeal and bravery of your seamen.

PORTUGAL.—*Extracts of Dispatches from Lord Viscount Talavera to Lord Liverpool.*—Published in London, 11th March 1811.—(Concluded from page 672.)

I am informed that there are nine thousand good troops in Badajoz, some having retired into that fortress from the field of battle; and that the garrison is well supplied with provisions, which have been left there by the inhabitants, who quitted the place when the communication with it was recently opened.—The works are still untouched, and the enemy's fire has hitherto done but little damage to the town.—General Claparede's division of the 9th corps still continued upon Guarda, with their advanced guard at Belmonte, when I last heard from that part of the country. They had made an attempt to obtain possession of Covilhao, on the 12th, but were repulsed

with some loss by Colonel Grant, who had occupied the town with a party of Ordenanzas of Lower Beira.—I inclose a letter from Marshal Sir William Beresford, and a report from Lieutenant-Colonel Grant, of this affair. From later reports I am apprehensive, however, that he has since been obliged to withdraw from thence.—I likewise enclose reports from Major-General Sir William Erskine, who commands the out-posts on the left of the army, of the capture of General Clausel's aide-de-camp, and a detachment of the enemy's cavalry and infantry, on the 19th instant, by Cornet Strenuwitz of the Hussars, to whose conduct, in an enterprize of a similar nature, I drew your lordship's attention in my last dispatch.—In this instance he has acquitted himself with great judgment and boldness.—The operations of the Guerillas continue throughout the interior.—Don Julian Sanchez, whom I have frequently mentioned to your lordship, has recently captured a large convoy of biscuit on its march from Ledesma to Ciudad Rodrigo, which had come from Palencia; and another party has recently done the enemy a considerable injury near the bridge of Arzobispo. It is said that General La Housaye has been killed in an affair at that place.—The enemy have made no movement of importance in front of this army since I addressed your lordship on the 16th instant. A considerable quantity of baggage has been sent out of Santarem, but I am inclined to believe that it belongs to sick officers and soldiers who have been removed from thence to the rear of the army.

Cartaxo, March 2, 1811.

No event of importance has occurred since I addressed you on the 23d of February. The enemy have continued their operations against Badajos, but without much effect; and the fire of the place is well kept up, and the garrison in good spirits.—General Mendizabel is endeavouring to collect and re-organize his corps at Villa Viciosa, in Portugal.—The enemy moved a large force, with cannon, upon Lieutenant-Colonel Grant, at Covilhao, on the 18th of February, and he was obliged to withdraw the Ordenanza from thence, and to retire to Alpedrinha, where he was, according to the last accounts.—The enemy have made no movement of any importance in the front of this army.